

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint for a motor vehicle, the ball and socket joint comprising:

with a ball pivot (3), ~~which has~~ with a pin (2) and a joint ball (1) ;

5 a housing having a recess, said ball pivot being ~~and is~~ arranged with [[its]] said joint ball (1) rotatably and pivotably in [[a]] said recess (4) provided in [[a]] said housing (5) and ~~extends~~ extending out of ~~this~~ said housing through a pin opening (6); ; and

~~with a sensor, characterized in that the sensor is~~ a moisture sensor (12) ~~that is in~~ operative connection with [[the]] said recess (4).

2. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said moisture sensor (12) is fastened in or at the housing (5).

3. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said moisture sensor (12) is arranged in [[the]] said recess (4).

4. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above~~ ~~claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein said moisture sensor (12) is arranged in [[the]] an area of the housing (5) facing away from [[the]] said pin opening (6).

5. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above~~

~~claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, further comprising: a protective wall (9) provided with ~~said~~ passage openings (15) ~~is and~~ arranged between ~~[[the]]~~ said moisture sensor (12) and ~~[[the]]~~ said recess (4).

6. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said passage openings (15) extend around a central wall area (14).

7. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above~~ ~~claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein said moisture sensor (12) has two ~~said~~ electrodes (19, 20), between which a material (28), which is sensitive to moisture from an electrical point of view, is arranged.

8. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 7, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said moisture-sensitive material (28) is a moisture-sensitive dielectric.

9. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 7 ~~or 8~~, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said moisture-sensitive material (28) is formed by a hygroscopic layer.

10. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the claims 7 through 9~~, characterized in that the claim 7, wherein said moisture-sensitive material (28) consists of polyamide film or aluminum oxide.

11. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the claims 7 through 9~~, characterized in that claim 7, further comprising: a lubricant (29) is introduced into the recess (4) and the moisture-sensitive material (28) is formed by at least part of ~~this~~ said lubricant (29).

12. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the claims 7 through 11~~, characterized in that the claim 7, wherein said electrodes (19, 20) are designed as bent metal plates.

13. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the claims 7 through 12~~, characterized in that the claim 7, wherein said electrodes (19, 20) are formed by galvanic layers or conductive coatings.

14. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~, characterized in that the claim 1, wherein said joint ball (1) is arranged in the housing (5) via the intermediary of a ~~calotte~~ bearing shell (25).

15. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 14, characterized in that the wherein said moisture sensor (12) is provided at the capotte bearing shell (25).

16. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with ~~one of the above~~ claims, characterized in that the claim 1, wherein said moisture sensor (12) is arranged at a sensor assembly unit housing (27).

17. (New) A ball and socket joint for a motor vehicle, the ball and socket joint comprising:

a ball pivot with a pin and a joint ball;

a housing defining a recess, said joint ball being seated in said recess of said housing for rotatable and pivotable movement in said recess, said pin extending out of said recess of said housing through a pin opening; and

a moisture sensor connected to said housing for sensing a degree of moisture in said recess.

18. (New) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 17, wherein said moisture sensor is fastened indirectly or directly to said housing and said moisture sensor is arranged in operative connection with an area of the housing facing away from said pin opening.

19. (New) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 17, further comprising: a protective wall provided with passage openings and arranged between said moisture sensor and said recess.

20. (Currently Amended) A ball and socket joint in accordance with claim 19, wherein said passage openings extend around a central wall area.